

10/563131

Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 02887.0372
IAP20040916 03 JAN 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Tsuyoshi ARUGA et al.) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
Application No.: Not Yet Assigned) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Filed: January 3, 2006)
National Stage of International Application)
No. PCT/JP2004/009160 under 35 U.S.C.)
371, for JOINING METHOD AND JOINING)
DEVICE)

**Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 and cited in the international search report. Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO/SB/08 and are in a non-English language:

1. Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-257238 - An English language abstract of this document is enclosed.
2. Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-318220 - An English language abstract of this document is enclosed.

Also, in lieu of a statement of relevance or the translation of the non-English documents, enclosed is an English-language international search report from the Japanese Patent Office in the PCT international application, from which this national phase U.S. application is derived, citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

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Attorney Docket No. **02287.0372**

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please
charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. **06-09163-2** DATED **03 JAN 2006**

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
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Dated: January 3, 2006

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Enclosures
RVB/FPD/sci

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<i>1563131</i>	
Sheet	1	of	1	<i>Not Yet Assigned</i>	<i>Application Number</i>
				<i>January 3, 2006</i>	<i>Filing Date</i>
				<i>Tsuyoshi ARUGA et al.</i>	<i>First Named Inventor</i>
				<i>Not Yet Assigned</i>	<i>Art Unit</i>
				<i>Not Yet Assigned</i>	<i>Examiner Name</i>
				<i>02887.0372</i>	<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

Note: Copies of the U.S. Patent Documents are not Required in IDS filed after October 21, 2004

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP 2001-257238	09-21-2001	TERADA et al.		ABSTRACT
		JP 2003-318220	11-07-2003	YAMAUCHI et al.		ABSTRACT

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.